

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1916. ***

THEATRICALS

Dramatic Calendar of the Week

Belasco—"The Greatest Nation," a romantic comedy by William Elliott and Marion Crichton, having its premiere tomorrow evening.

National—"It Pays to Advertise," clever farce with novel theme, exceedingly well written and highly humorous.

Keith's—"The Forest Fires," a spectacular electrical production, heading bill of vaudeville.

Poli's—"A. H. Van Buren heading the Poli Company in "The Law of the Land," George Broadhurst's sensational play.

Gayety—Burlesque.

Cosmos—Vaudeville.

Casino—Hall Stock Company in "East Lynne."

Loew's Columbia—Paramount Pictures.

Some Laugh--Others Weep; Romance and Comedy Lead

ONE whose commendation is most significant and convincing was enthusiastic in praise of Elsie Ferguson's playing of "Margaret Schiller" at the National Theater during the past week. He was not optimistic as to the success of her play, but believes Miss Ferguson is rapidly developing into a remarkable emotional actress. He said he was going again—just to watch Miss Ferguson.

The premiere of "The Greatest Nation" in this metropolis tomorrow evening gives expression to the long-expected return of romantic drama to the American stage, and if the play meets with favor, we are told that costume comedies will be much in evidence on our boards during the year which is yet young. William Elliott and Olive Wyndham will appear as the rulers of neighboring kingdoms that have long been at war. Love, of course, finds a way to settle the difficulty. Mr. Elliott will be remembered for his splendid performance of Youth in George V. Hobart's play, "Experience," while Miss Wyndham was the delightful star of "What Happened to Mary."

Mme. Yorska, late of the Theater Sarah Bernhardt and more recently of the Theater Francaise, of New York, has a leading role. In private life she is the Countess Venturini, and was last seen in Washington in 1914, when she was invited by the Italian Ambassador, the Marquis Cusani Colfalonieri to produce one of his plays in French. Her appearance on the English-speaking stage here tomorrow night is looked forward to with much interest. The settings and costumes for "The Greatest Nation" were designed by Joseph Urban and are said to be the most beautiful this great master has yet produced. The nature of the story, dealing as it does, in a symbolical way with two royal families and their adjacent kingdoms, affords opportunities for artistic splendor of unusual magnificence.

There's a lot of fun in "It Pays to Advertise"—so New York said. We shall see! The stock favorites will revive popular domestic dramas designed to make you sympathize and weep; Keith's has a fine bill of vaudeville topped by a thrilling spectacle, "The Forest Fire," the burlesquers will make merry; and the remaining temples of entertainment present picture-plays, travel-talks, and other pleasing pastimes.

Speaking of vaudeville brings to mind the continued popularity of Irving Berlin's song, "When I Leave the World Behind," which never fails to "get a hand" for Willa Holt Wakefield and a hundred other performers using it this season. On the first page of the printed song the origin of the lyric is disclosed. It is "dedicated to the memory of Charles Lounsbury, whose legacy suggested this song." If our tune writers would always turn their attention to setting such exquisite word-pictures to melody for the popular approval, I am sure they would receive a much higher pedestal in the Hall of Fame.

Since the song has attracted so much attention, it may not be presumptuous to repeat a portion of Lounsbury's will:

"That part of my interest which is known in law and recognized in sheep bound volumes as my property, being inconsiderable and of no account, I make no disposal of in this my will.

"My right to live but a life estate is not at my disposal; but these things excepted all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath:

"Item: I give to good fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly and generously, as the needs of their children may require.

"Item: I leave to children inclusively, but only for the term of their childhood; all and every, the flowers of the field, and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely, according to the custom of children, warning them at the same time against thistles and thorns. And I devise to the children, the banks of the brooks and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, and the odor of the willows that dip therein, and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees. And I leave the children the long, long days in which to be merry in a thousand ways, and the night and the moon, and the train of the milky way to wonder at, but subject, nevertheless to the rights hereinafter given to lovers.

"Item: I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played; all snowclad hills where one may coast, all pleasant waters where one may swim, and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where, when grim winter comes on, one may skate to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood; and all meadows, with the clover blossoms and the butterflies thereof, and the woods and their apertures, and squirrels and birds, the echoes of the strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found. And I give to said boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures which may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance and without any incumbrance or care.

"Item: To lovers I devise their imaginary world, with whatever they may need—the stars of the sky, the red roses by the wall, the bloom of the hawthorn, the sweet strains of music, and aught else by which they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and the beauty of their love.

"Item: To young men jointly I devise and bequeath all boisterous and inspiring sports of rivalry, and I give to them the disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength, though they are rude; and I give them the power to make everlasting friendships and of possessing companions, and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses to sing with lusty voices.

"Item: And to those who are no longer children or youths or lovers I leave memory, and I bequeath to them the volumes of the poems of Burns and Shakespeare, and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live over again the old days, freely and fully without tithe or distinction.

"Item: To our loved ones with snowy crowns I bequeath the happiness of old age and the love and gratitude of their children until they fall asleep."



OLIVE WYNDHAM AND WM. ELLIOTT — BELASCO



SCENE FROM "IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE" — NATIONAL

THE CURRENT WEEK.

Belasco—"The Greatest Nation."

Considerable interest is being manifested in the opening tomorrow night at the Belasco Theater of a new romantic play by William Elliott and Marion Crichton entitled "The Greatest Nation."

The play is in a prelude and four acts, with scenery especially designed by Joseph Urban. The story has to do with the fortunes of two royal families living in adjacent kingdoms that have long been on the eve of a great war. Nothing definite has been given out about the plot by the express wishes of Mr. Elliott, but it is said that a romantic love story may be expected, and that it depicts the thrilling adventures, soul trials, and noble acts of heroism that ever follow in the trail of war. The play is being produced under the stage direction of Cyril Scott.

The principal role, that of "Alan, the Crown Prince of Thor," will be played by Mr. Elliott himself, while opposite him as "Adria, Crown Princess of Adion," is Olive Wyndham, recently seen in the leading ingenue role of "The Man from Home." Mme. Yorska has a prominent part. Others in the cast are Roland Buckstone, J. Hooker Wright, Hal Forde, Zora Travers, Charles Mussett, Sydney Mather, Thomas P. Gunn, Roland Rushon, C. L. Felter, Edward Duggan, Henry Flower and Gordon Burby.

National—"It Pays to Advertise."

Tomorrow night at the New National Theater Cohan & Harris will present "It Pays to Advertise." This Broadway success comes here after a solid year at the George M. Cohan Theater, New York, with the record of fifty-five consecutive weeks of capacity attendance and a run of six solid months in Chicago. "It Pays to Advertise" is a message of inspiration, both as a love story and a plea for the most powerful force that has revolutionized modern business methods.

"Do you eat duck eggs? No, of course not. Well then, why not? When a hen lays an egg it makes a noise about it. Doesn't it? But when a duck lays an egg she keeps it quiet about it. The duck doesn't advertise." Don't be a duck. There you have the germ of the big idea of Rol Cooper Megrins and Walter Hackett's play. Every one has heard about this remarkable play, so it is needless to tell you that it all begins with the plot of a wealthy soap manufacturer to get his easy-going son interested in business. His stenographer enters into a conspiracy. The two find their schemes work only too well. On money obtained from father the boy embarks as a rival soap manufacturer and gives the old man a run for his money. It is sea-saw between them, and the ups and downs make one of the breeziest imaginable farces. Cohan & Harris will present the entire original production complete in every particular, with the following cast: Edna Baker, Dorothy Foster, Marjorie Poli, Carol Warren, Richard Sterlings, John Butler, William Holden, Spencer Charters, Harry Maltland, Edward McQuade, Bernard Thornton, George Stillwell and others.

Poli's—"The Law of the Land."

For the fifth time in as many weeks the Poli Players will offer a play entirely new to Washington, and one which has scored a big success in New York, and other cities. The drama is "The Law of the Land," George Broadhurst's play, which ran for an entire year at the Forty-eighth Street Theater, New York, and in which Julia Dean scored the greatest success of her career. "The Law of the Land" is said to be the most forceful play which Mr. Broadhurst has written since "The Man of the Hour," followed by his "Bought and Sold For."

The story concerns a young wife

whose husband's cruelty to her child drives her to desperation. There is a dramatic climax to the prologue, and the succeeding scenes of the play show the efforts of the police to prove that the wife is the slayer of her husband. The suspense is said to be developed in a striking and gripping manner, and the interest of the audience is held until the final moment of the curtain. There are numerous comedy scenes to relieve the tension of the play, the characters developing the lighter side of the story, being a young secretary who is very much in love with the wife, and a loyal old butler who gets terribly tangled in his efforts to save his mistress.

The Poli production tomorrow, Florence Rittenhouse will be seen in the role of the wife, while the leading male role will be played by A. H. Van Buren.

Keith's—Vaudeville.

The first American tour of the English spectacular sensation, "The Forest Fire," will bring it to Keith's this week. It is a drama of the old Drury Lane Theater kind, of the people of the far Northwest America timberland. In three stirring scenes, two amazing tableaux and having a cast of thirty players headed by the well-known London actress, Sylvia Bidwell. The supplementary leading feature will be James and Bonnie Thornton as "The Youngest of the Old-Timers" in a compound of songs, stories, and dances. Another attraction will be the musical comedy star and song writer, Frederick V. Bowers and Company in "The Scenic Revue." It is fashioned after the London revues and introduces seven separate scenes. Third in order will be Ruth Royce, who enjoys the distinction of having played ten consecutive weeks at the Palace last summer. New synopses, recitals, and dialect ballads will form her program. Joseph Bernard and company will be seen for the first time in "Who Is She?" a farce by Willard Mack.

Other numbers will be added by Savoy and Brennan, the Calis brothers, Wallace Bradley and Nevada Norris, the organ recitals, and the Pathé pictorial.

Today the program will submit Grace La Rue, Sara Zora, Beatrice Herford, Marie and Mary McFarland, the Miniature Revue, Willard Simms and company, Bert and Bette Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilda, and other inclusions.

Gayety—Burlesque.

At the Gayety this week Joe Hurtig presents "The Big Burlesque Carnival." Two acts are presented, with Ed. Lee Wrothe in "Higgins at the Race Track," the scene of which occurs at Belmont Park, and "Biding Billy" Watson as Otto, "The Flying Dutchman," and chief exarator of the Patent Office in Washington. From beginning to end it is a burlesque show. More than fifty people are embraced in the organization, including Owen Martin, Estelle Colbert, Ethel Marmont, Hazel Woodbury, Jack Howard, Max Follman, Al Dupont, Tommy Brooks. During the course of the burlesque, a number of specialties are introduced. The musical program embraces more than twenty numbers in all.

A number of specialties have been arranged for the performances today by the members of the Strolling Players Company. Doris Thayer will give a vocal act. The Stantons will appear in an act entitled "The Daffodils." The concert by Prof. Wagner's Orchestra will form an addition to both performances.

Cosmos—Vaudeville.

Harry Slatko's Midnight Rollickers in a terpsichorean festival, "Dancing Around," will be the headline attraction at the Cosmos Theater all this week. Five acts to support this feature will include Marie West, a character singing comedienne, who will make her first appearance in Washington, assisted by James Manning at the piano; Lewis and



GIRLS WITH MIDNIGHT ROLICKERS — COSMOS

White, a singing duo; Evelyn May & Co., in "Live Wires"; Holly and Holmes, in "One Night," and Rio and Norman, a novelty acrobatic offering, with the Solis-Tribune News pictures heading the added attractions, and Edith Storey and Antonio Moreno featured in "A Price for Folly" as the photoplay.

The supporting acts the last half of the week, beginning at the Thursday matinee will include Willard Hutchinson and Josie Sadler, Billy Morse, Lewis dogs and monkeys, and Marie West with James Manning. The Pathe Weekly will head the added attractions, and the photoplay will be "The Misleading Lady," featuring Henry Walthall and Edna Mayo.

Adams' overture, "If I Were King," Schubert's, "The Erl King," and "Parewell," Saint Saens' Mazurka No. 1; selections from Rubens' "The Girl From Utah," and Donetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor," with popular melodies, will be featured in the orchestral program today. There will also be some new specialties and other attractions on the program.

Casino—"East Lynne."

"East Lynne," the emotional drama with its story of a woman's folly called by her overpowering mother's love, in which the great Clara Morris drew the tears of mothers and even grandmothers nearly a half century ago, will be the offering of the Hall Players at the Casino Theater this week, with Louise Kent, in the role of Lady Isabelle, Lane Ware, the leading woman, will be seen in the role of Barbara, who was unconsciously the cause of Lady Isabelle's tragic life, and Louis Ancker, as Archibald, while to the lighter role of Corrie has been assigned a newcomer in the company, Carrie Pryor.

Manager Falkner's revival of the old plays of years ago, such as "Lena Rivers," and "St. Elmo" has awakened an interest in women which has been long dormant. "East Lynne" is the queen of all these old plays and it is doubtful if there be a mother or a grandmother now alive who has not found rest and happiness in weeping over its old but heart stirring romance.

Columbia—Paramount Pictures.

Blanche Sweet, the Lasky star, will be seen as the star in the photodramatic production of "The Ragamuffin," which will be the attraction at Loew's Columbia Theater for the first three days of this week beginning tomorrow morning. Miss Sweet, who scored a remarkable success in "The Secret Sin," "The Case of Becky," and other Lasky productions has won a host of friends in Washington. In the stellar role of "The Ragamuffin" she is seen as a young girl who has been reared in all the environment of squalidness and crime, and who knows of no law except the law of man, the officer or the gangster. During an attempt to rob the home of a wealthy man she is caught, but instead of turning her over to the police he talks with her kindly and awakens within her the spark of goodness that has been smoldering underneath the surface of the little outcast. She determines to do right and the story unfolds her earnest efforts, her



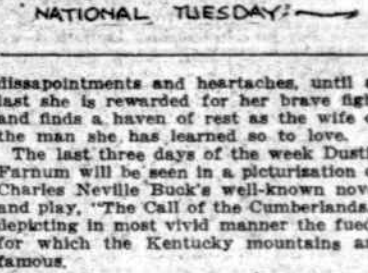
A. H. VAN BUREN — Poli's



SYLVIA BIDWELL — Keith's



BURTON HOLMES — NATIONAL TUESDAY



ED. LEE WROTHER — Gayety

PROMISED NEXT WEEK.

Julian Eltinge in "Cousin Lucy."

Julian Eltinge comes to the New National Theater next week, in his newest musical comedy success, "Cousin Lucy," which was written for him by Charles Klein.

In this comedy, as in its predecessor, "The Fascinating Widow," Mr. Eltinge has a role which affords him the opportunity of appearing in a double characterization of a young man and a dashing young woman. He is forced to hide his true identity behind that of his cousin Lucy to collect a much-needed life-insurance policy.

Eltinge this year will have the support of Dallas Welford, Mrs. Stuart Robson, Harriet Burt, and others.

Vaudeville.

Elsie Janis, at Keith's next week, is the official announcement of General Manager Edward F. Albee who, by arrangement with Charles B. Dillingham, is personally directing her tour in vaudeville. Miss Janis will present "Impersonations of My Favorite Stars," in which she shows them doing just the opposite of what they usually do. The supporting bill will contain Ralph Dumbars Maryland Singers, Tony Hunting and Corinne Francis in "Love Blossoms," Claude and Fannie Usher and "Sparrows" in "Fagin's Decision," Raymond and Gaverly, "The Wizards of Joy," Corcoran and Dingle, Lohse and Sterling, Herbert's Dogs, the organ recitals, and the Pathe pictorial.

Burlesque.

"Smiling Beauties," one of Jacobs and Jermon's latest offerings is scheduled for presentation at the Gayety next week. Harry K. Morton and Joe Emerson are at the head of this new production. The cast includes June Mills, Zella Russell, Ruth Wesley, Billy Innes, the Bijou Comedy Trio, and others. The merry-making goes on an elaborate scale, it is said. Claim is also made that the chorus of more than twenty girls was not

picked only for their good looks, but for their voices as well.

"The Dummy."

"The most engaging detective comedy which Washington had seen in the last ten years was "The Dummy," which had its first performance on any stage at the Columbia Theater two years ago, and which is to be presented at Poli's as the attraction following "The Law of the Land."

While "The Dummy" is in a sense a travesty on certain detective plays of the day it tells a most entertaining story of its own, and there are many dramatic climaxes in the course of its action.

The plot deals with the efforts of a New York detective, Babbling, to capture a bold band of kidnapers who have succeeded in spiriting away the young daughter of a couple about to be divorced. Babbling has as his chief assistant in this undertaking a street urchin who has been reading Sherlock Holmes stories, and has become obsessed with the desire to be a regular "de-sec-n-tur." The play gets its name from the fact that the boy poses as a deaf mute in order to win the confidence of the kidnapers, and in order to be near the girl prisoner.

"Nymphs of the Fountain."

A spectacular water production, "The Nymphs of the Fountain," will head the Cosmos Theater bill all next week. It is not the ordinary diving attraction, but a fairy novelty like "The Magic Well." Other acts will include Silbers and North in "The Bashful Bear," Florenti, the juggler of the lighted cigarette; Martin Curtin and company in "The Suffragettes"; Kennedy and Farley in songs, dances and cherry chatter, and Homer, Dickinson and Homer in a musical novelty, with the Solis-Tribune current news picture heading the added attractions and "The Heights of Hazard," featuring Charles Richman as the photoplay feature.

CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Belasco Tonight—Newman Travels.

"Argentina," the "A" country in the now famous "A. B. C." coalition, will be the subject of the second of E. M. Newman's series of South American travel-talks at the Belasco Theater tonight and tomorrow afternoon. This photographic journey to the wealthiest and most promising of all the Latin-American republics, is an alluring prospect indeed. Mr. Newman has brought with him a remarkably

complete collection of color views and motion pictures showing life in Buenos Aires—gayety, luxury and fashion—which rivals that of Paris—the commercial nations of the country illustrating the opportunities open to our business men, the wonderful estancias and the cities of La Plata, Rosario and Tucuman.

Burton Holmes, National, Tuesday.

"The Panama-Pacific Exposition" is the subject for Mr. Holmes' second travelogue which is to be given on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 at the New National Theater. In Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and other cities where this travelogue has already been given, it has proven to be the rival in attendance as well as in popular favor of his famous travelogue on the Panama Canal which broke all records several seasons ago. The coloring of the exposition itself gives Mr. Holmes unusual opportunities for the reproduction of the buildings, works of art, fountains, etc., in his colored slides, while the aerial antics of Art Smith in his miracle-working aeroplane, the arrival of the Liberty Bell, the parade of the Shriners, viewing the buildings and the courts of the grounds from the little electric tram cars, are all reproduced in his motion pictures.

Julia Culp, National, Friday.

Julie Culp, the Dutch mezzo soprano who has become famous throughout the country as a lieder singer, is to be the star of the seventh of T. Arthur Smith's series of concerts at the New National Theater next Friday afternoon. This will be Mme. Culp's first appearance in Washington this season.

Mme. Culp is known in this city as one of the best interpreters of the lieder type of song that visits here during a concert season. She is familiar with the songs of the English, Welsh and Scotch peoples as she is with the German lieder and makes their musical meaning so plain that the simplest student of music could understand them.

Conrad Bos, the Dutch pianist, will be Mme. Culp's accompanist next Friday afternoon, as in the past.

Manager Harry Jarboe announces that the performances at the Gayety Theater will begin five minutes earlier this week.